



By Brigadier General Kenneth M. Taylor Jr.



PICTURE OF PRIDE. We are proud to congratulate Master Sergeant Christopher W. Frey on his selection for a Title 10, Statutory Tour with Headquarters Air Combat Command, Logistics Group at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia for 48 months. MSgt Frey works at Kulis in 176 LG/LGQ, as a Quality Services Technician specializing in helicopters. He will surely show those “Washington Loggies” that we Alaskans are professional and are maintainers on the leading edge of technology.

FOCUS ON ETHICS. I presented an ethics briefing at Eielson during the March drill and at Kulis in April. From the Kulis session here are a few questions we did not get to, or that I would like to answer a bit more thoroughly: (1) “When does the AFI concerning professional relationships and fraternization apply? Title 10 Active Duty, Title 32 Active Duty, Inactive Duty, Technician, Off Duty?” The first paragraph of AFI 36-2909 is clear: “This instruction applies to all active duty members, members of the United States Air Force Reserve (USAFR), and members of the Air National Guard (ANG).” In other words “all the time”. (2) On the question about staff and facilities for the Medical Squadron. The quality of our work facilities are extremely important for morale, retention, safety, and the ultimate success of our mission. We are working hard to obtain funding and commitments from Congress for two important facilities on Kulis: 1. Vehicle Maintenance/Fire Station. Our transportation and fire fighting personnel work out of the oldest remaining structure on Kulis, dating from the 1950’s. Vehicle maintenance is often conducted outdoors during winter months, due to lack of indoor space. The proposed facility would house the Vehicle Maintenance Shop, Fueling Station and the Fire Station. 2. Composite Support Facility Complex. Our dining hall, Hobbs Hall, was originally designed to feed about 300 people - a size we haven’t seen since the 1970’s. The clinic plays a critical role in keeping our flyers, maintainers and everyone medically fit, yet long lines and crowded conditions are the norm. The new proposed complex will include an enlarged Dining/Services Flight Area, a new Medical Training Area, Telecommunications Center Area, Security Police Area and an altered ECM/ADS Shop. We will be meeting with Senator Stevens and others in the coming months to make the case for these important improvements. Quality of life on Kulis and at Eielson are extremely important to everyone. We’ll keep you posted in future editions of Alaska View as to our progress. (3) On the environmental issues there will be an article forthcoming in the Guardian at Kulis.

NIGHT VISION ON VIPs. In February, Alaska received some special visitors. Two Swedish Army officers, ranked the best two students at the Swedish Military Academy for 1996 were selected by the Commander of the Swedish Army, LTG Melin, to visit the United States, ending in Alaska where they would study National Guard winter training. Accompanied by the Swedish Military and Assistant Defense Attache, BG Lars-Olof Strandberg, they visited the Alaska Army National Guard and then had a rescue demonstration from the Alaska Air National Guard. The rescue demonstration simulated a military pilot downed in enemy territory and two pararescuemen, “PJ’s”, dropped behind lines to rescue that pilot. The VIPs were strategically placed; an HC-130 proceeded to air drop a PJ that would simulate the downed pilot. The HC-130 then dropped a radio and a medical bundle and the two PJs who would rescue the pilot. After all three PJs were on the ground (and had completed the rescue) the MH-60 crew simulated a hoist and then picked up the PJs. Another MH-60 retrieved the VIPs who had watched from a distance.

SNAP SHOT ON SAFETY. Did you know.... Male drivers die at twice the rate of female drivers?Two percent of the people killed in accidents between automobiles and trucks are riding in the trucks?More than 60% of all fatal accidents occur at night?That the safest day of the week for driving is Monday and the deadliest day/time is early mornings, both Saturday and Sunday, when bars and entertainment facilities are closing?

OFFICER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. Professional development of over 75,000 officers is a complex subject. There is no one magic formula or career path as it encompasses many tools including training, assignments, staff expertise, professional (and continuing) military education, advanced education, promotions and leadership opportunities. Though the following statistics do not necessarily reflect an Air National Guard career, they still offer valuable benchmarking for ANG officers. The reality is not everyone progresses to the same level over the course of a military or civilian career. Historically, for every 100 officers who enter active duty, approximately 45 will be promoted to major and only 32 to lieutenant colonel. Advancement to colonel is even more challenging with only 10 of every 100 line accessions reaching colonel. General officer is more selective—only 1 of every 263 line officers commissioned in 1970 has been nominated for brigadier. Given these numbers and the high caliber of air force officers, those who label success as nothing short of full colonel may not understand the likelihood of this occurring.